From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]

Sent: 3/27/2019 2:32:30 PM **To**: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]

Subject: Daily News Digest, Wednesday, March 29

Attachments: Daily News Digest 032719.pdf

1 – ITC cleanup targets pockets of oil on bayous, Ship Channel, Houston Chronicle, 3/26/19

https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/deerpark/article/ITC-continues-cleanup-effort-at-charred-Deer-Park-13717093.php

Cleanup crews at the charred Intercontinental Terminals Co. Deer Park plant will resume scooping up pockets of oil in the Houston Ship Channel, Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou before reopening the commercial waterway to traffic, U.S. Coast Guard officials said Tuesday.

2 - Oil, sludge not contained near Deer Park chemical fire, Coast Guard says, KPRC, 3/26/19

https://www.click2houston.com/news/cleanup-crews-continue-to-work-after-deer-park-chemical-fire

A park now acts as the primary staging area for contractors working to contain or clean up the contaminates that spilled out of the ITC facility during a chemical fire that started on March 17.

3 - Do not eat fish caught in Houston Ship Channel: Officials, ABC 13, 3/26/19

https://abc13.com/do-not-eat-fish-caught-in-houston-ship-channel-officials/5219448/

Texas Department of State Health Services is warning people not to eat fish caught in the Houston Ship Channel. The area has been closed since Friday, and the U.S. Coast Guard has been skimming the water to pull out oily product.

4 - Harris County receives permission to take legal action against ITC over tank fire, ABC 13, 3/26/19

https://abc13.com/harris-county-to-take-legal-action-against-itc-over-tank-fire/5218159/

The Texas attorney general has already filed a lawsuit against Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) over the tank fire at its Deer Park facility. Now it appears Harris County will do the same thing.

5 - Houston channel importance swelled as oil, gas exports rose, Bloomberg, 3/27/19

https://www.mysanantonio.com/business/energy/article/Houston-Channel-s-Importance-Has-Swelled-as-Crude-13719862.php

On a normal day, 42 tankers, 19 freighters, 391 barges, 128 ferries and 2 cruise ships will move through the Houston Ship Channel. On any given day, one of those tankers may be as long as 1,500 feet. The last week, though, has been anything but normal.

6 - EPA may thwart efforts by states to set stricter pesticide rules, Politico, 3/26/19

https://www.politico.com/story/2019/03/26/epa-pesticide-rules-1292061

State regulators are worried that the Environmental Protection Agency is getting ready to override them on a host of pesticide regulations by negating stricter rules intended to curb crop damage or prevent environmental hazards from pesticides.

7 – EDITORIAL: Protect the Buffalo, Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 3/27/19

https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2019/mar/27/nwa-editorial-protect-the-buffalo-20190/

^{*}Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.

^{*}To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.

Just as every Arkansan is touched in some way by the state's strong connection to agriculture, the state's residents are also impacted by the quality of water in the form of lakes, creeks, streams and rivers. This is why the debate over Senate Bill 550 in the Arkansas General Assembly is so important.

8 - OPINION: Constant vigilance, Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 3/25/19

https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2019/mar/27/brenda-blagg-constant-vigilance-2019032/ State lawmakers are getting an earful these days on legislation that would change how hog farms are permitted in this state. They should be.

9 – OPINION: The Carlsbad Department of Development is thankful for WIPP, Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus, 3/26/19

https://www.currentargus.com/story/news/local/2019/03/26/carlsbad-department-development-thankful-wipp/3066281002/

From the mid 1970s until the first waste shipment was received on March 26, 1999, the Carlsbad Department of Development and its members realized what benefits the WIPP site might have on the economy of Carlsbad and worked tirelessly to help get the project approved, constructed and built.

10 – Report: Methane emissions are higher on Navajo lands, Farmington (NM) Daily Times, 3/26/19

https://www.daily-times.com/story/news/2019/03/26/report-methane-emissions-higher-navajo-lands/3248535002/

An eight-page report released by the Environmental Defense Fund states oil and natural gas companies waste more than a billion cubic feet of natural gas extracted from Navajo Nation lands each year, leading to a loss of \$3.4 million of profits and \$850,000 of royalties.

11 – Wheeler vows not to work on Pebble, some Superfund sites, E&E News, 3/26/19

https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/03/26/stories/1060129543

EPA chief Andrew Wheeler has promised not to weigh in on the Pebble mine proposal and toxic waste site cleanups connected to his former lobbying clients after media scrutiny.

12 – Researcher warns climate change could spur financial crisis, Bloomberg, 3/26/19

https://www.abqjournal.com/1296622/researcher-warns-climate-change-could-spur-financial-crisis.html Climate change is becoming increasingly relevant to central bankers because losses from natural disasters that are magnified by higher temperatures and elevated sea levels could spark a financial crisis, a Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco researcher found.

13 – West Bank cyanide plant proposal again goes before skeptical public, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 3/26/19

https://www.nola.com/environment/2019/03/west-bank-cyanide-plant-proposal-again-goes-before-skeptical-public.html

As Cornerstone Chemical Co. tries to sway public opinion for a new cyanide plant, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality said Tuesday (March 26) it has received 932 comments on whether to issue an air quality permit for the Waggaman project. "That is a substantial number," agency spokesman Greg Langley said.

14 – With Mississippi River beginning to recede, Bonnet Carre Spillway closure begins, Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/26/19

https://www.theadvocate.com/new_orleans/news/article_e339892c-4fd4-11e9-9df7-67e9b9e27490.html

With a reduction in the Mississippi River, the Bonnet Carre Spillway will begin to close on Tuesday, the Army Corps of Engineers announced. The closure of bays begins 26 days after the opening, and the river still remains at elevated levels.

15 - DOD chief addresses PFAS criticism, skirts climate question, E&E News, 3/27/19

https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2019/03/27/stories/1060130107

Lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee yesterday grilled acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan on the impacts of climate change on the military. They also pressed him on contamination caused by toxic nonstick chemicals found in military firefighting foam.